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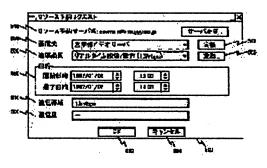
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(54) NETWORK RESOURCE RESERVING SYSTEM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To permit or inhibit reservation by judging whether or not a required network resource can be secured at relevant time through a managing server by simultaneously designating attributes such as communication start time and end time as well in case of network resource reservation. SOLUTION: A resource reservation request window 500 displays fields for inputting a name 510 of resource managing server to accept a resource reservation request, communication destination information 520 requesting the reservation, communication quality 530 and date/time 560. Besides, by pressing a communication destination definition button 540 and a

communication quality definition button 550, the



communication destination or communication quality to be frequently used can be defined or referred to as a reservation template. When an OK button 590 is pressed, reservation data are sent to the resource managing server. When the reservation template is selected, a communication band 570 and communication quantity 580 are automatically set so that an end user can easily reserve the required communication resource.

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In a network with the function which can specify communication link place information and communication link quality information, and can reserve a network resource The user interface program performed with host equipment acquires the communication link place information for which a user wishes, and communication link quality information. The reservation request information that the network resource manager performed with the server equipment or node equipment which receives a network resource reservation request was transmitted from said user interface program is received. The network resource reservation method which analyzes said reservation request information, is based on the set-up regulation, and recognized or refused the reservation request.

[Claim 2] The network resource reservation method characterized by notifying the reason for refusing a request in a network resource reservation method according to claim 1 when refusing the network resource reservation request from a client.

[Claim 3] The network resource management method with which a user interface program is characterized by performing an inquiry to a network resource manager according to the demand from a user, and enabling it to show a user the information about network resource reservation status in a network resource reservation method according to claim 1.

[Claim 4] The network resource reservation method characterized by judging after performing the inquiry to a user authentication server with reference to the user authentication data contained in a reservation request when required when judging whether the reservation request which the network resource manager received is received in a network resource reservation method according to claim 1. [Claim 5] The network resource reservation method characterized by enabling it to check the confirmation operation of the network resource reservation status by the client with the graphical user interface based on an Internet standard protocol in a network resource reservation method according to claim 1.

[Claim 6] It is the network resource reservation method characterized by establishing a means to calculate and propose an alternative automatically in a network resource reservation method according to claim 1 when resource reservation goes wrong.

[Claim 7] The network resource reservation method characterized by enabling it to publish the network resource reservation request by the communication link place and communication link quality which define beforehand the concrete combination of the communication link place information at the time of performing network resource reservation, and communication link quality information as a reservation template in the network resource reservation method according to claim 1, and were only defined by specifying said reservation template in case a network resource is reserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the method which reserves network resources, such as a network band and communication link quality level, in the computer network which two or more network node equipments are connected mutually, and is constituted. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The demand of wanting to communicate multimedia data, such as not only text data like before but voice and an image, is increasing as the engine performance of a computer improves and a communication network technique improves. In order to break off and communicate multimedia data in the open network environment especially represented by the Internet, it is necessary to secure the communication link quality for which a user wishes by securing the resource which needs the node equipment on a communication path for multimedia communication. As a technique for attaining such an object, the communications protocol called a resource reservation protocol (Resource Reservation Protocol) is examined by Internet Engineering Task Force (Internet Engineering Task Force).

[0003] Moreover, in an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network, the communication link quality for which it wishes by specifying the communication link quality demanded in the case of the call setup to the ATM switching system which is node equipment in a network, a band, etc. can be secured now. [0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The communications protocol for securing the above-mentioned conventional technique and a network resource required when it is going to communicate actually is specified. For this reason, a network resource cannot be reserved unless it becomes, when communicating.

[0005] Furthermore, with the above-mentioned conventional technique, in order to reserve a network resource, the advanced information about a network resource is required, and the end user using a network was not able to deal with it easily.

[0006] Since the reservation status of a network resource furthermore cannot be known with the above-mentioned conventional technique, it is difficult to change conditions and to try another reservation. [0007] Furthermore, with the above-mentioned conventional technique, when judging whether a network resource can be reserved, the approach for judging synthetically information, such as a user's network utilization authority and a communicative priority, and permitting or dismissing reservation was not offered.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, in this invention, the network resource reservation method for not reserving, after a communication link is needed, but enabling it to reserve also about the future communication link that it is needed beforehand turns out to be is proposed. In case a network resource is reserved, it not only specifies a communication link place and communication link quality like before, but it can specify simultaneously attributes, such as communication link start time and end time. Thereby, a network resource management server can judge whether a network resource required for the time of day concerned is securable, and can permit or dismiss reservation.

[0009] In this invention, in order to perform the above network resources, the network resource manager performed with the user interface program, server equipment, or node equipment performed with host equipment is used. The end user who does not have the advanced information about a network resource by this can also perform network resource reservation easily. The reservation template definition function for realizing easier actuation is also offered.

[0010] Furthermore, by this invention, when [-- when network resource reservation is refused, a user can be shown the reason for an objection, or current reservation status can be looked through now at any

time --] resource reservation should not be completed and it tries reservation of an exception, the convenient function is offered.

[0011] Furthermore, by this invention, in case the above-mentioned network resource reservation is performed, in order to be able to perform decision based on the authority of those who demand reservation, the communicative priority which it is going to reserve, the flexible network resource management in alignment with the employment policy of the organization which is employing the network is attained.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, a drawing explains the example of this invention. [0013] <u>Drawing 1</u> shows the whole network-system configuration which is one example of this invention.

[0014] Host equipment goes via a network, shifts and is connected to that node equipment. In the example of this Fig., host equipment A is connected to node equipment A, and host equipment B is connected to node equipment B.

[0015] Node equipments are connected to one of other node equipments via a network. In the example of this Fig., node equipment A and node equipment B are connected in the network.

[0016] A resource management server is connected to the node equipment of either of the networks. Although only one resource management server is installed to the whole network in this example, in order to raise dependability, it is also possible to prepare two or more resource management servers. [0017] Although the case where node equipment was a configuration of [equipment / two sets and / host] one set in two sets and a resource management server was shown by this example since it was easy, it cannot be overemphasized that the function as this example that it is the same also in the case of the large-scale network configuration which contains much node equipments, host equipment, and a resource management server further can be realized.

[0018] Although this example explains the case where a resource management server is realized as an isolated system, the function itself which a resource management server has can also be built in other equipments. For example, a configuration whose one in the node equipment of this example builds in resource management server ability is also possible.

[0019] <u>Drawing 2</u> shows the case where three node equipments are connected as other examples, and the user authentication server is installed.

[0020] When the user authentication server is installed, it is possible to add a user authentication function to a resource function manager which is realized by this example. Moreover, also when host equipment is connected via three or more node equipments, it is possible to apply the resource management method of this invention.

[0021] Although this example explains the case where a resource management server and a user authentication server are realized as an isolated system, the function itself which a resource management server and a user authentication server have can also be built in other equipments. For example, a configuration whose one in the node equipment of this example builds in resource management server ability, and it builds in the function of a user authentication server in other node equipments is also possible.

[0022] Although this example shows the case where two host equipments are connected and a communication link is performed by the point-to-point by the meantime, it is possible to apply similarly the resource reservation function using a resource management server also about the case of the so-called multicast communication link which communicates from one host equipment to two or more host equipments.

[0023] <u>Drawing 3</u> shows the system configuration of host equipment.

[0024] CPU300 reads and performs the program stored in main memory. The various software for controlling host equipment is stored in main memory 310. Host equipment is connected to the network through the network controller 320. The input from a keyboard 335 is sent and processed by the keyboard controller 330. The input from a mouse 345 is sent and processed by the serial controller 340. The display to a display 355 is controlled by the display controller 350. The disk unit 365 built in host

equipment is controlled by the disk controller 360.

[0025] Drawing 4 shows the software configuration of host equipment.

[0026] A communication control module 440 controls data transmission to a network, and the data reception from a network. An application program 400 processes an application program proper, transmitting and receiving data using a communication control module. The resource reservation user interface (UI) program 410 controls the user interface about resource reservation processing. The resource reservation administrative module 420 manages the content of the resource management table 430 by actuation of a user or the demand from a resource management server.

[0027] <u>Drawing 5</u> shows a resource reservation request window.

[0028] When the user of host equipment reserves a resource, the reservation data expected of a resource reservation request window are inputted. The inputted data are sent to a resource management server, and are recognized or refused by decision of a resource management server.

[0029] The field which inputs the name 510 of the resource management server which receives a resource reservation request, the communication link place information 520 that he wishes to reserve, the communication link quality 530 that wishes to reserve, and the time 560 which wishes to reserve is displayed on the resource reservation request window 500. Moreover, by pushing the communication link place definition carbon button 540 and the communication link quality definition carbon button 550, the communication link place and communication link quality which are used frequently can be defined as a reservation template, or can be referred to now.

[0030] The reservation data inputted when the user pushed the O.K. carbon button 590 are sent to a resource management server. A user's push of Cancel button 595 does not send a reservation request. A reservation template is used when specifying a communication link place and communication link quality here. In the example of this Fig., the reservation template [place / communication link / quality / a "marketing department video server" and / communication link] "a real-time image / voice (1.5Mbps)" is used, respectively. If a reservation template is chosen, since a communication band 570, traffic 580, etc. are set up automatically, they do not need to have detailed technical information just for how a user should specify a required resource. For this reason, the communication link resource which an end user needs can be reserved easily.

[0031] A network administrator is able to create a reservation template, and the user who understands the technical detail is able to give a definition uniquely.

[0032] Drawing 6 shows a communication link place template window.

[0033] A new template can be defined by specifying the template name 610 and specifying the communication link place host name 620 and the communication link place port number 630, respectively. If another template which is the template name 610 and is already defined is chosen, the content of setting out can also be changed.

[0034] <u>Drawing 7</u> shows a communication link quality template window.

[0035] A new template can be defined by specifying the template name 710 and specifying the communication link place host name 720 and the communication link place port number 730, respectively. If another template which is the template name 710 and is already defined is chosen, the content of setting out can also be changed.

[0036] Drawing 8 shows the example of the class of service which can be specified.

[0037] Five classes of service shown in <u>drawing 8</u> are defined by this example.

[0038] A class of service A is a class of service by which reservation is received more preferentially [can specify communication link time of day and a communication band, and] than the usual reservation.

[0039] Class-of-service A- is a class of service which can specify communication link time of day and a communication band and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0040] It assumes specifying a class of service A and A- communicating using a specific communication band at specific time of day, such as video conferencing.

[0041] A class of service B is a class of service by which reservation is received more preferentially [can specify traffic and] than the usual reservation at the time of a communication link.

[0042] Class-of-service B- is a class of service which can specify communication link time of day and traffic and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0043] It assumes that a class of service B and B- specify the data of amounts collected to some extent, such as a file transfer, to communicate by specific length.

[0044] Especially the class of service C is a class of service which communication link time of day etc. does not specify and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0045] It assumes specifying a class of service C in the case of the general data communication called the so-called best effort.

[0046] Cost is [Class C] low most in the sequence [classes of service / above-mentioned / five / Class / A / cost is the highest (cost 5) and] subsequently class A- (cost 4) (cost 1). It becomes possible for a user to choose a suitable class of service according to the communicative object and the tolerance of cost, and to communicate.

[0047] Furthermore, it cannot be overemphasized that the new class of service doubled with the utilization object by a class of network resource, the setting-out approach of a priority, etc. of reserving besides the above-mentioned class of service can be defined.

[0048] <u>Drawing 9</u> shows the advice window of resource reservation acknowledgement.

[0049] It judges whether a resource management server looks at the content of the resource reservation request sent from host equipment, and recognizes reservation. Consequently, in recognizing the demanded reservation request, it notifies recognizing reservation to host equipment. If reservation is recognized, host equipment will notify a user of having displayed the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement, and the reservation request having been recognized.

[0050] The name 920 of the reservation receipt number 910 published when a resource management server receives the reservation concerned, and the resource management server which received the reservation request concerned is displayed on the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 930 eliminates the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement.

[0051] <u>Drawing 10</u> shows the advice window of resource reservation failure.

[0052] It notifies that a resource management server does not recognize reservation to host equipment when not recognizing the resource reservation request sent from host equipment. Host equipment notifies a user of what the advice window of resource reservation failure was displayed, and the reservation request went wrong.

[0053] The name 1020 of the reason 1010 the reservation concerned was refused, and the resource management server which received the reservation request concerned is displayed on the advice window 1000 of resource reservation failure. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 1030 eliminates the advice window 1000 of resource reservation failure.

[0054] This example shows that the reason which failed in reservation had the reservation which competes at the same time of day. Thus, a user can know why reservation went wrong by advice from a resource management server.

[0055] By the resource management method of this invention, since the resource management server has managed resource reservation collectively, it can judge easily whether a certain reservation is possible. [0056] It is also possible to judge the propriety of reservation based on the information that it is going to perform authority of the user who furthermore sent the resource reservation request, and reservation, such as a communicative priority.

[0057] In this example, if a user pushes the alternative carbon button 1040, the reservation which went wrong, and the alternative which can be reserved on near conditions will be proposed.

[0058] <u>Drawing 11</u> shows the alternative reservation proposal window 1100.
 [0059] If a resource reservation request is refused, the resource administrative module of host equipment will propose a suitable alternative reservation proposal by asking a resource management server reservation status with reference to the reason code by which the resource reservation request was refused.

[0060] Resource reservation Server Name 1110 which the resource administrative module chose, the communication link place 1120, the communication link place definition carbon button 1140, the

communication link quality 1130, the communication link quality definition carbon button 1150, the communication link time of day 1160, a communication band 1170, traffic 1180, etc. are displayed on the alternative reservation window 1100. The reservation request of the content proposed that it pushes the reservation carbon button 1190 is published. A reservation request will not be published if Cancel button 1195 is pushed.

[0061] Thus, since an alternative reservation proposal is calculated automatically and shown, a user can try another reservation immediately, also when reservation goes wrong. Since the alternative shown here is a thing in consideration of the information about current reservation status, if a proposal is followed, a reservation request will be recognized almost certainly. Therefore, it does not take the time and effort which publishes a useless reservation request repeatedly.

[0062] Drawing 12 shows a resource reservation list window.

[0063] The user of host equipment can check the present resource reservation status at any time if needed.

[0064] The reservation information list 1210 of a subscriber, a communication link place, communication link initiation time, communication link termination time, communication link quality, etc. is displayed on the resource reservation list window 1200. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 1220 eliminates the resource reservation list window 1200. A user's push of the detail carbon button 1230 displays the detailed information about the reservation item then chosen by the reservation information list 1210 on a resource reservation detail window. Thus, since a user can check resource reservation status at any time, he can publish a reservation request in consideration of a network operating condition.

[0065] <u>Drawing 13</u> shows a resource reservation detail window.

[0066] If a certain item in the reservation list displayed on a resource reservation list window is chosen and a detail carbon button is pushed, a resource reservation detail window will be displayed. The name 1310 of the user who performed the reservation concerned, the communication link place information 1320 on the reservation concerned, the communication link quality information 1330 of the reservation concerned, the communication link start time 1340 of the reservation concerned, the communication link end time 1350 of the reservation concerned, the reservation receipt number 1360 of the reservation concerned, and the name 1360 of the resource management server which received the reservation concerned are displayed on the resource reservation detail window 1300. If the closed carbon button 1380 is pushed, a resource reservation detail window will close. A push on the reservation change carbon button 1385 displays the window which performs the reservation change of the reservation concerned. A push on the reservation cancellation carbon button 1390 cancels the reservation concerned.

[0067] Drawing 14 shows the data format of a resource reservation request message.

[0068] The resource reservation request message 1400 consists of claimant authentication information 1470, such as the communication link time information 1460, such as the communication link quality information 1450, such as the communication link place information 1440, such as the code 1420 which shows that it is a header information 1410 resource reservation request message, ID1430 of a claimant, and a network address of communication link place host equipment, and a band used for a communication link, communication link delay tolerance, communication link start time, and end time, and ID of a claimant, electronic signature data.

[0069] <u>Drawing 15</u> shows the data format of a resource reservation acknowledgement message. [0070] The resource reservation acknowledgement message 1500 consists of server authentication data 1560, such as the reservation acknowledgement information 1550, such as the code 1520 which shows that they are header information 1510 and a resource reservation result informative message, ID1530 of a claimant, the code 1540 which shows resource reservation acknowledgement, and a reservation acknowledgement number, a server name, and electronic signature data of a server.

[0071] Drawing 16 shows the data format of a resource reservation objection message.

[0072] The resource reservation objection message 1600 consists of server authentication data 1660, such as the code 1620 which shows that they are header information 1610 and a resource reservation

result informative message, ID1630 of a claimant, the code 1640 which shows a resource reservation objection, the reservation objection reason code 1650, a server name, and electronic signature data of a server.

[0073] <u>Drawing 17</u> shows the data format of a resource reservation cancellation message.

[0074] The resource reservation cancellation message 1700 consists of server authentication data 1750, such as the reservation acknowledgement information 1740, such as a code 1720, ID1730 of a claimant, and a reservation acknowledgement number, a server name, electronic signature data of a server, etc. in which it is shown that they are header information 1710 and a resource reservation invalid message.

[0075] <u>Drawing 18</u> shows the data format of the resource reservation information message 1800.

[0076] The resource reservation information message 1800 consists of server authentication data 1840, such as a server name and electronic signature data of a server, to the Nth reservation information 1870 in the sequence of the reservation information 1850 on several 1830 of the code 1820 which shows header information 1810 and resource reservation information, and the reservation information included in this message, and the 1st reservation information [1840 or 2nd]. The same information that each reservation information is included in reservation request messages, such as Claimant ID, communication link place information, and communication link quality information, is included. [0077] Drawing 19 shows the data format of a resource reservation change message.

[0078] A resource reservation change message consists of claimant authentication information 1980, such as the communication link time information 1970, such as the communication link quality information 1960, such as the communication link place information 1950, such as a network address of the reservation acknowledgement information 1940, such as the code 1920 which shows header information 1910 and a resource reservation change, ID1930 of a claimant, and a reservation acknowledgement number, and communication link place host equipment, and a band used for a communication link, communication link delay tolerance, communication link start time, and end time, and ID of a claimant, electronic signature data.

[0079] <u>Drawing 20</u> shows the flow of the advice processing of a resource reservation result. [0080] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation request window (step). It is confirmed whether the user pushed the Cancel button (step). It will end, supposing the Cancel button is pushed. If the Cancel button is not pushed, a resource reservation request message is created (step). The created resource reservation request message is transmitted to a resource management server (step).

[0082] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment receives a resource reservation result informative message from a resource management server (step 2100). The content of the resource reservation result informative message is checked (step 2110). Supposing resource reservation is recognized, reservation acknowledgement data will be taken out from a resource reservation result informative message (step 2130). A resource reservation acknowledgement window is displayed and the taken-out reservation acknowledgement data are displayed (step 2150). Supposing resource reservation is refused, the reason for reservation failure will be taken out from a resource reservation result informative message (step 2120). A resource reservation failure window is displayed and the reason for reservation failure is displayed (step 2140).

[0083] <u>Drawing 22</u> shows the flow of resource reservation cancellation processing.

[0084] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation detail window (step 2200). It judges whether the reservation cancellation carbon button was pushed in the resource reservation detail window (step 2210). Supposing a reservation cancellation carbon button is pushed, the reservation receipt number, resource reservation Server Name, and the reservation number of the reservation concerned will be taken out (step 2220). A resource reservation cancellation message is created based on the taken-out reservation receipt number (step 2230). The created resource reservation cancellation message is transmitted to a resource management server (step 2240).

[0085] Drawing 23 shows the flow of resource reservation change processing.

[0086] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation detail window (step 2300). It judges whether the reservation change carbon button was pushed in the resource reservation detail window (step). Supposing a reservation change carbon button is pushed, the reservation receipt number, resource reservation Server Name, and the reservation number of the reservation concerned will be taken out (step 2320). A resource reservation change message is created based on the taken-out reservation receipt number (step 2330). The created resource reservation change message is transmitted to a resource management server (step 2340).

[0087] <u>Drawing 24</u> shows the flow of alternative reservation proposal processing.

[0088] The reason code of a resource reservation failure message is referred to (step 2400). Resource reservation information is required of a resource management server (step 2410). A resource reservation information message is received from a resource management server (step 2420). The alternative considered for reservation to be possible from reservation information and a reason code is created (step 2430). It judges whether there is any alternative (step 2440). When there is an alternative, an alternative reservation window is displayed (step 2450). When there is no alternative, a user is notified of there being no alternative (step 2460). It judges whether it reserves based on an alternative (step 2470). When reserving, a resource reservation request message is created (step 2480). It sends to the resource management server which had the created resource reservation message specified (step 2490). [0089]

[Effect of the Invention] By using the network resource reservation method of this invention, an end user without advanced information about a network resource can reserve a network resource by easy actuation.

[0090] Since it can judge whether reservation is recognized using a user's authentication information etc. in case a network resource is furthermore reserved, reservation in consideration of a user's authority or a communicative priority can be performed.

[0091] Since resource reservation status can furthermore be checked at any time and an alternative is automatically shown at the time of resource reservation failure, when a certain resource reservation goes wrong, another reservation can be performed efficiently.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the method which reserves network resources, such as a network band and communication link quality level, in the computer network which two or more network node equipments are connected mutually, and is constituted.

PRIOR ART

[Description of the Prior Art] The demand of wanting to communicate multimedia data, such as not only text data like before but voice and an image, is increasing as the engine performance of a computer improves and a communication network technique improves. In order to break off and communicate multimedia data in the open network environment especially represented by the Internet, it is necessary to secure the communication link quality for which a user wishes by securing the resource which needs the node equipment on a communication path for multimedia communication. As a technique for attaining such an object, the communications protocol called a resource reservation protocol (Resource Reservation Protocol) is examined by Internet Engineering Task Force (Internet Engineering Task Force).

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[0020] When the user authentication server is installed, it is possible to add a user authentication function to a resource function manager which is realized by this example. Moreover, also when host equipment is connected via three or more node equipments, it is possible to apply the resource management method of this invention.

[0021] Although this example explains the case where a resource management server and a user authentication server are realized as an isolated system, the function itself which a resource management server and a user authentication server have can also be built in other equipments. For example, a configuration whose one in the node equipment of this example builds in resource management server ability, and it builds in the function of a user authentication server in other node equipments is also possible.

[0022] Although this example shows the case where two host equipments are connected and a communication link is performed by the point-to-point by the meantime, it is possible to apply similarly the resource reservation function using a resource management server also about the case of the so-called multicast communication link which communicates from one host equipment to two or more host equipments.

[0023] <u>Drawing 3</u> shows the system configuration of host equipment.

[0024] CPU300 reads and performs the program stored in main memory. The various software for controlling host equipment is stored in main memory 310. Host equipment is connected to the network through the network controller 320. The input from a keyboard 335 is sent and processed by the keyboard controller 330. The input from a mouse 345 is sent and processed by the serial controller 340. The display to a display 355 is controlled by the display controller 350. The disk unit 365 built in host equipment is controlled by the disk controller 360.

[0025] <u>Drawing 4</u> shows the software configuration of host equipment.

[0026] A communication control module 440 controls data transmission to a network, and the data reception from a network. An application program 400 processes an application program proper, transmitting and receiving data using a communication control module. The resource reservation user interface (UI) program 410 controls the user interface about resource reservation processing. The resource reservation administrative module 420 manages the content of the resource management table 430 by actuation of a user or the demand from a resource management server.

[0027] <u>Drawing 5</u> shows a resource reservation request window.

[0028] When the user of host equipment reserves a resource, the reservation data expected of a resource reservation request window are inputted. The inputted data are sent to a resource management server, and are recognized or refused by decision of a resource management server.

[0029] The field which inputs the name 510 of the resource management server which receives a resource reservation request, the communication link place information 520 that he wishes to reserve, the communication link quality 530 that wishes to reserve, and the time 560 which wishes to reserve is displayed on the resource reservation request window 500. Moreover, by pushing the communication link place definition carbon button 540 and the communication link quality definition carbon button 550, the communication link place and communication link quality which are used frequently can be defined as a reservation template, or can be referred to now.

[0030] The reservation data inputted when the user pushed the O.K. carbon button 590 are sent to a resource management server. A user's push of Cancel button 595 does not send a reservation request. A reservation template is used when specifying a communication link place and communication link quality here. In the example of this Fig., the reservation template [place / communication link / quality / a "marketing department video server" and / communication link] "a real-time image / voice (1.5Mbps)" is used, respectively. If a reservation template is chosen, since a communication band 570, traffic 580, etc. are set up automatically, they do not need to have detailed technical information just for how a user should specify a required resource. For this reason, the communication link resource which an end user needs can be reserved easily.

[0031] A network administrator is able to create a reservation template, and the user who understands the technical detail is able to give a definition uniquely.

[0032] <u>Drawing 6</u> shows a communication link place template window.

[0033] A new template can be defined by specifying the template name 610 and specifying the communication link place host name 620 and the communication link place port number 630, respectively. If another template which is the template name 610 and is already defined is chosen, the

content of setting out can also be changed.

[0034] <u>Drawing 7</u> shows a communication link quality template window.

[0035] A new template can be defined by specifying the template name 710 and specifying the communication link place host name 720 and the communication link place port number 730, respectively. If another template which is the template name 710 and is already defined is chosen, the content of setting out can also be changed.

[0036] <u>Drawing 8</u> shows the example of the class of service which can be specified.

[0037] Five classes of service shown in drawing 8 are defined by this example.

[0038] A class of service A is a class of service by which reservation is received more preferentially [can specify communication link time of day and a communication band, and] than the usual reservation.

[0039] Class-of-service A- is a class of service which can specify communication link time of day and a communication band and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0040] It assumes specifying a class of service A and A- communicating using a specific communication band at specific time of day, such as video conferencing.

[0041] A class of service B is a class of service by which reservation is received more preferentially [can specify traffic and] than the usual reservation at the time of a communication link.

[0042] Class-of-service B- is a class of service which can specify communication link time of day and traffic and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0043] It assumes that a class of service B and B- specify the data of amounts collected to some extent, such as a file transfer, to communicate by specific length.

[0044] Especially the class of service C is a class of service which communication link time of day etc. does not specify and by which reservation is received with the usual priority.

[0045] It assumes specifying a class of service C in the case of the general data communication called the so-called best effort.

[0046] Cost is [Class C] low most in the sequence [classes of service / above-mentioned / five / Class / A / cost is the highest (cost 5) and] subsequently class A- (cost 4) (cost 1). It becomes possible for a user to choose a suitable class of service according to the communicative object and the tolerance of cost, and to communicate.

[0047] Furthermore, it cannot be overemphasized that the new class of service doubled with the utilization object by a class of network resource, the setting-out approach of a priority, etc. of reserving besides the above-mentioned class of service can be defined.

[0048] <u>Drawing 9</u> shows the advice window of resource reservation acknowledgement.

[0049] It judges whether a resource management server looks at the content of the resource reservation request sent from host equipment, and recognizes reservation. Consequently, in recognizing the demanded reservation request, it notifies recognizing reservation to host equipment. If reservation is recognized, host equipment will notify a user of having displayed the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement, and the reservation request having been recognized.

[0050] The name 920 of the reservation receipt number 910 published when a resource management server receives the reservation concerned, and the resource management server which received the reservation request concerned is displayed on the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 930 eliminates the advice window 900 of resource reservation acknowledgement.

[0051] <u>Drawing 10</u> shows the advice window of resource reservation failure.

[0052] It notifies that a resource management server does not recognize reservation to host equipment when not recognizing the resource reservation request sent from host equipment. Host equipment notifies a user of what the advice window of resource reservation failure was displayed, and the reservation request went wrong.

[0053] The name 1020 of the reason 1010 the reservation concerned was refused, and the resource management server which received the reservation request concerned is displayed on the advice window 1000 of resource reservation failure. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 1030 eliminates the advice

window 1000 of resource reservation failure.

[0054] This example shows that the reason which failed in reservation had the reservation which competes at the same time of day. Thus, a user can know why reservation went wrong by advice from a resource management server.

[0055] By the resource management method of this invention, since the resource management server has managed resource reservation collectively, it can judge easily whether a certain reservation is possible. [0056] It is also possible to judge the propriety of reservation based on the information that it is going to perform authority of the user who furthermore sent the resource reservation request, and reservation, such as a communicative priority.

[0057] In this example, if a user pushes the alternative carbon button 1040, the reservation which went wrong, and the alternative which can be reserved on near conditions will be proposed.

[0058] <u>Drawing 11</u> shows the alternative reservation proposal window 1100.

[0059] If a resource reservation request is refused, the resource administrative module of host equipment will propose a suitable alternative reservation proposal by asking a resource management server reservation status with reference to the reason code by which the resource reservation request was refused.

[0060] Resource reservation Server Name 1110 which the resource administrative module chose, the communication link place 1120, the communication link place definition carbon button 1140, the communication link quality 1130, the communication link quality definition carbon button 1150, the communication link time of day 1160, a communication band 1170, traffic 1180, etc. are displayed on the alternative reservation window 1100. The reservation request of the content proposed that it pushes the reservation carbon button 1190 is published. A reservation request will not be published if Cancel button 1195 is pushed.

[0061] Thus, since an alternative reservation proposal is calculated automatically and shown, a user can try another reservation immediately, also when reservation goes wrong. Since the alternative shown here is a thing in consideration of the information about current reservation status, if a proposal is followed, a reservation request will be recognized almost certainly. Therefore, it does not take the time and effort which publishes a useless reservation request repeatedly.

[0062] Drawing 12 shows a resource reservation list window.

[0063] The user of host equipment can check the present resource reservation status at any time if needed.

[0064] The reservation information list 1210 of a subscriber, a communication link place, communication link initiation time, communication link termination time, communication link quality, etc. is displayed on the resource reservation list window 1200. A user's push of the O.K. carbon button 1220 eliminates the resource reservation list window 1200. A user's push of the detail carbon button 1230 displays the detailed information about the reservation item then chosen by the reservation information list 1210 on a resource reservation detail window. Thus, since a user can check resource reservation status at any time, he can publish a reservation request in consideration of a network operating condition.

[0065] <u>Drawing 13</u> shows a resource reservation detail window.

[0066] If a certain item in the reservation list displayed on a resource reservation list window is chosen and a detail carbon button is pushed, a resource reservation detail window will be displayed. The name 1310 of the user who performed the reservation concerned, the communication link place information 1320 on the reservation concerned, the communication link start time 1340 of the reservation concerned, the communication link start time 1340 of the reservation concerned, the communication link end time 1350 of the reservation concerned, the reservation receipt number 1360 of the reservation concerned, and the name 1360 of the resource management server which received the reservation concerned are displayed on the resource reservation detail window 1300. If the closed carbon button 1380 is pushed, a resource reservation detail window will close. A push on the reservation change carbon button 1385 displays the window which performs the reservation change of the reservation concerned. A push on the reservation cancellation carbon button 1390 cancels the reservation concerned.

[0067] Drawing 14 shows the data format of a resource reservation request message.

[0068] The resource reservation request message 1400 consists of claimant authentication information 1470, such as the communication link time information 1460, such as the communication link quality information 1450, such as the communication link place information 1440, such as the code 1420 which shows that it is a header information 1410 resource reservation request message, ID1430 of a claimant, and a network address of communication link place host equipment, and a band used for a communication link, communication link delay tolerance, communication link start time, and end time, and ID of a claimant, electronic signature data.

[0069] <u>Drawing 15</u> shows the data format of a resource reservation acknowledgement message.

[0070] The resource reservation acknowledgement message 1500 consists of server authentication data 1560, such as the reservation acknowledgement information 1550, such as the code 1520 which shows that they are header information 1510 and a resource reservation result informative message, ID1530 of a claimant, the code 1540 which shows resource reservation acknowledgement, and a reservation acknowledgement number, a server name, and electronic signature data of a server.

[0071] Drawing 16 shows the data format of a resource reservation objection message.

[0072] The resource reservation objection message 1600 consists of server authentication data 1660, such as the code 1620 which shows that they are header information 1610 and a resource reservation result informative message, ID1630 of a claimant, the code 1640 which shows a resource reservation objection, the reservation objection reason code 1650, a server name, and electronic signature data of a server.

[0073] <u>Drawing 17</u> shows the data format of a resource reservation cancellation message.
[0074] The resource reservation cancellation message 1700 consists of server authentication data 1750, such as the reservation acknowledgement information 1740, such as a code 1720, ID1730 of a claimant, and a reservation acknowledgement number, a server name, electronic signature data of a server, etc. in which it is shown that they are header information 1710 and a resource reservation invalid message.
[0075] <u>Drawing 18</u> shows the data format of the resource reservation information message 1800.
[0076] The resource reservation information message 1800 consists of server authentication data 1840, such as a server name and electronic signature data of a server, to the Nth reservation information 1870 in the sequence of the reservation information 1850 on several 1830 of the code 1820 which shows header information 1810 and resource reservation information, and the reservation information included in this message, and the 1st reservation information [1840 or 2nd]. The same information that each reservation information is included in reservation request messages, such as Claimant ID, communication link place information, and communication link quality information, is included.
[0077] <u>Drawing 19</u> shows the data format of a resource reservation change message.
[0078] A resource reservation change message consists of claimant authentication information 1980, such as the communication link time information 1970, such as the communication link quality information 1960, such as the communication link place information link place information 1950, such as a network address of

such as the communication link time information 1970, such as the communication link quality information 1960, such as the communication link place information 1950, such as a network address of the reservation acknowledgement information 1940, such as the code 1920 which shows header information 1910 and a resource reservation change, ID1930 of a claimant, and a reservation acknowledgement number, and communication link place host equipment, and a band used for a communication link, communication link delay tolerance, communication link start time, and end time, and ID of a claimant, electronic signature data.

[0079] <u>Drawing 20</u> shows the flow of the advice processing of a resource reservation result. [0080] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation request window (step). It is confirmed whether the user pushed the Cancel button (step). It will end, supposing the Cancel button is pushed. If the Cancel button is not pushed, a resource reservation request message is created (step). The created resource reservation request message is transmitted to a resource management server (step).

[0081] <u>Drawing 21</u> shows the flow of the advice processing of a resource reservation result. [0082] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment receives a resource

reservation result informative message from a resource management server (step 2100). The content of the resource reservation result informative message is checked (step 2110). Supposing resource reservation is recognized, reservation acknowledgement data will be taken out from a resource reservation result informative message (step 2130). A resource reservation acknowledgement window is displayed and the taken-out reservation acknowledgement data are displayed (step 2150). Supposing resource reservation is refused, the reason for reservation failure will be taken out from a resource reservation result informative message (step 2120). A resource reservation failure window is displayed and the reason for reservation failure is displayed (step 2140).

[0083] Drawing 22 shows the flow of resource reservation cancellation processing.

[0084] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation detail window (step 2200). It judges whether the reservation cancellation carbon button was pushed in the resource reservation detail window (step 2210). Supposing a reservation cancellation carbon button is pushed, the reservation receipt number, resource reservation Server Name, and the reservation number of the reservation concerned will be taken out (step 2220). A resource reservation cancellation message is created based on the taken-out reservation receipt number (step 2230). The created resource reservation cancellation message is transmitted to a resource management server (step 2240).

[0085] Drawing 23 shows the flow of resource reservation change processing.

[0086] The resource reservation user interface program of host equipment displays a resource reservation detail window (step 2300). It judges whether the reservation change carbon button was pushed in the resource reservation detail window (step). Supposing a reservation change carbon button is pushed, the reservation receipt number, resource reservation Server Name, and the reservation number of the reservation concerned will be taken out (step 2320). A resource reservation change message is created based on the taken-out reservation receipt number (step 2330). The created resource reservation change message is transmitted to a resource management server (step 2340).

[0087] Drawing 24 shows the flow of alternative reservation proposal processing.

[0088] The reason code of a resource reservation failure message is referred to (step 2400). Resource reservation information is required of a resource management server (step 2410). A resource reservation information message is received from a resource management server (step 2420). The alternative considered for reservation to be possible from reservation information and a reason code is created (step 2430). It judges whether there is any alternative (step 2440). When there is an alternative, an alternative reservation window is displayed (step 2450). When there is no alternative, a user is notified of there being no alternative (step 2460). It judges whether it reserves based on an alternative (step 2470). When reserving, a resource reservation request message is created (step 2480). It sends to the resource management server which had the created resource reservation message specified (step 2490).

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is system configuration drawing of one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is system configuration drawing of another example of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is system configuration drawing of host equipment.

[Drawing 4] It is software configuration drawing of host equipment.

[Drawing 5] It is a resource reservation request window.

[Drawing 6] It is a communication link place template window.

[Drawing 7] It is a communication link quality template window.

[Drawing 8] The list of available classes of service is shown.

[Drawing 9] It is an advice window of resource reservation acknowledgement.

[Drawing 10] It is an advice window of resource reservation failure.

[Drawing 11] It is an alternative reservation proposal window.

[Drawing 12] It is a resource reservation list window.

[Drawing 13] It is a resource reservation detail window.

[Drawing 14] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation request message.

[Drawing 15] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation acknowledgement message.

[Drawing 16] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation objection message.

[Drawing 17] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation cancellation message.

[Drawing 18] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation information message.

[Drawing 19] It is drawing showing the data format of a resource reservation change message.

[Drawing 20] It is drawing showing the flow of resource reservation request issuance processing.

[Drawing 21] It is drawing showing the flow of the advice processing of a resource reservation request result.

[Drawing 22] It is drawing showing the flow of resource reservation request cancellation processing.

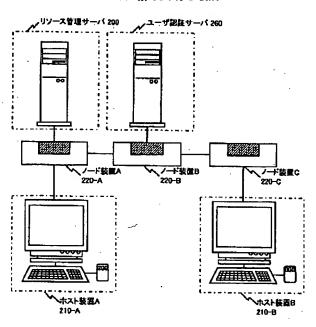
[Drawing 23] It is drawing showing the flow of resource reservation request modification processing.

[Drawing 24] It is drawing showing the flow of alternative reservation proposal processing.

[Description of Notations]

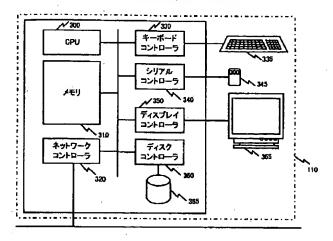
100 -- A resource management server, 110 -- Host equipment, 120 -- Node equipment, 150 -- A network, 400 -- An application program, 410 -- Resource reservation UI program, 420 -- A resource reservation administrative module, 430 -- Resource reservation managed table, 440 -- A communication control module, 500 -- Resource reservation request window, 600 -- A communication link place template window, 700 -- Communication link quality template window, 800-840 -- A class of service, 900 -- Advice window of resource reservation acknowledgement, 1000 -- The advice window of resource reservation failure, 1100 -- Alternative reservation proposal window, 1200 -- A resource reservation list window, 1300 -- Resource reservation detail window, 1400 -- A resource reservation request message, 1500 -- Resource reservation cancellation message, 1600 -- A resource reservation objection message, 1700 -- Resource reservation cancellation message, 2000-2030 [-- Resource reservation change processing, 2400-2490 / -- Alternative reservation proposal processing.] -- Resource reservation request issuance processing, 2100-2150 -- The advice processing of a resource reservation result, 2200-2240 -- Resource reservation cancellation processing, 2300-2340

[Drawing 2] 図2 別のシステム機成

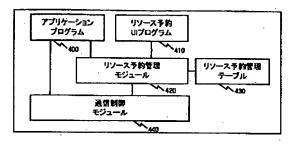


[Drawing 3]

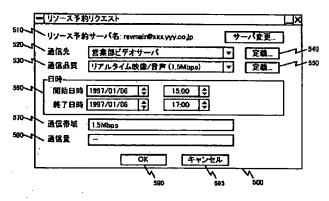
図3 ホスト装置システム構成



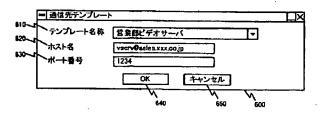
[Drawing 4] 図4 ホスト装置ソフトウェア構成



[Drawing 5] 図5 リソース予約リクエストウィンドウ

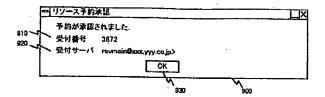


[Drawing 6] 図8 通信先テンプレートウィンドウ



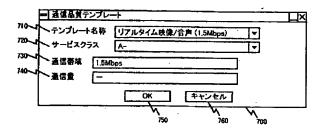
[Drawing 9]

図9 リソース予約承認通知ウィンドウ



[Drawing 7]

図7 通信品質テンプレートウィンドウ



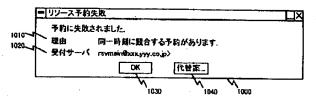
[Drawing 8]

図8 サービスクラス

サービス クラス	コスト	通信時刻	通信帯域	通信量	予約 優先度
Α .	5	推定	指定		優先
A-	4	指定	指定	-	非優先
В	3	指定		指定	優先
B-	2	指定	-	指定	存假先
C	1	-		-	非假先

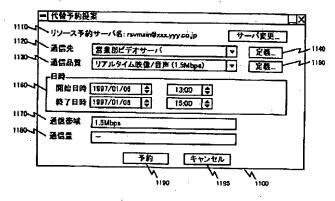
[Drawing 10]

図10 リソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ



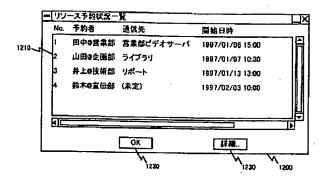
[Drawing 11]

図(1 代替予約提案ウィンドウ



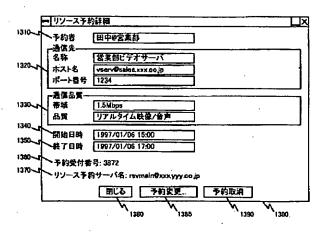
[Drawing 12]

図12 リソース予約一覧ウィンドウ



[Drawing 13]

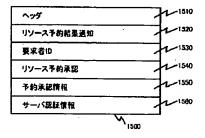
図13 リソース予約詳細ウィンドウ



[<u>Drawing 14]</u> 図14 リソース**予約**リクエストメッセージ

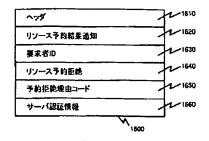


[Drawing 15] 図15 リソース予約承認メッセージ



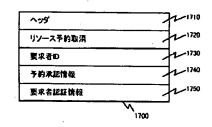
[Drawing 16]

図16 リソース予約拒絶メッセージ

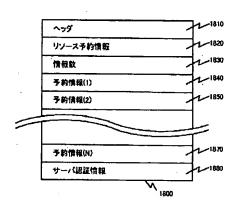


[Drawing 17]

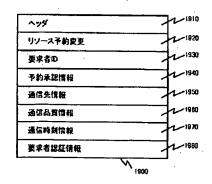
図17 リソース予約取消メッセージ



[<u>Drawing 18]</u> 図18 リソース予約情報メッセージ

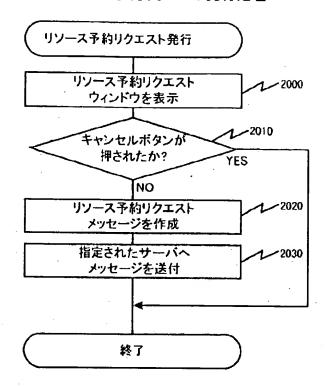


[Drawing 19] 図19リソース予約変更メッセージ



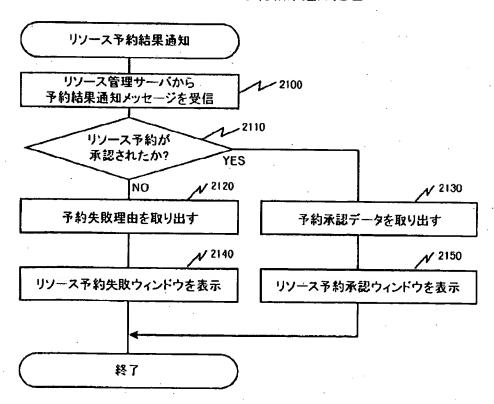
[Drawing 20]

図20 リソース予約リクエスト発行処理



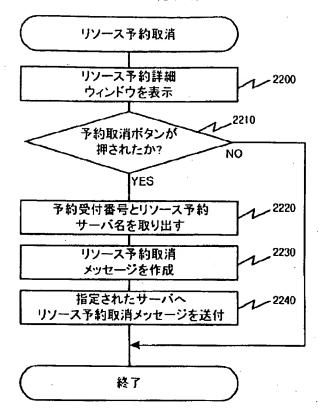
[Drawing 21]

図21 リソース予約結果通知処理



[Drawing 22]

図22 リソース予約取消処理



[<u>Drawing 23]</u> 図23 リソース予約変更処理

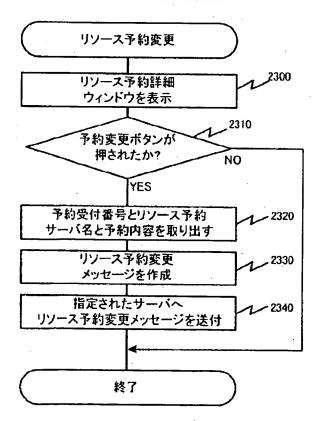
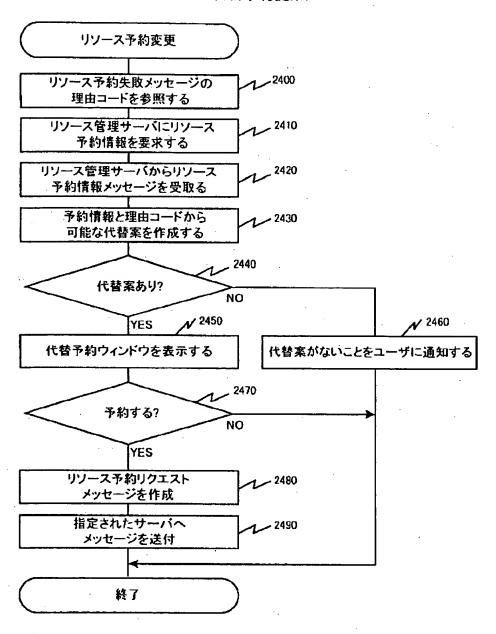


図24 代替予約提案処理



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		平成9年(1997)5月8日 (72)発明者 (72)発明者

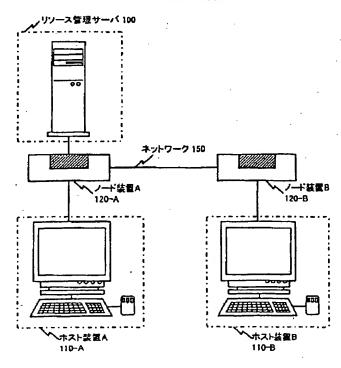
(54) 【発明の名称】ネットワークリソース予約方式

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 通信に使われるネットワークリソースをあらか じめ予約しておくことができない。

【解決手段】リソース管理サーバを設け、簡単な操作でネットワークリソースを予約できるようにする。通信の 優先度やコストを考慮して予約できるようにする。予約 情報をクライアントからいつでも確認することができるようにし、リソース予約に失敗した場合は代替案を自動的に見つけ出して提示する。

図1 システム構成



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】通信先情報および通信品質情報を指定してネットワークリソースを予約することができる機能を持つネットワークにおいて実行されるユーザインタフェースプログラムがユーザが希望する通信先情報を取得し、ネットワークリソースを置け付けるサーバ装置で実行されるネットワークリソース管理プログラムが前配ユーザインタフェースプログラムから送信された予約リクエスト情報を受信し、前記予約リクエスト情報を解析し、設定された規則に基づいて予約リクエストを解析し、設定された規則に基づいて予約リクエストを永方式。

【請求項2】 請求項1 に配破のネットワークリソース予 約方式において、クライアントからのネットワークリソ ース予約リクエストを拒否する場合には、リクエストを 拒否する理由を通知するようにしたことを特徴とするネ ットワークリソース予約方式。

【請求項3】請求項1に記載のネットワークリソース予約方式において、ユーザインタフェースプログラムがユーザからの要求に応じてネットワークリソース管理プログラムに問合せを行い、ネットワークリソース予約状況に関する情報をユーザに提示することができるようにしたことを特徴とするネットワークリソース管理方式。

【請求項4】 請求項1に記載のネットワークリソース予約方式において、ネットワークリソース管理プログラムが受信した予約リクエストを受け付けるかどうかを判断する際に予約リクエストに含まれるユーザ認証データを参照し、必要ならばユーザ認証サーバに対する問合せを行ってから判断を行うようにしたことを特徴とするネットワークリソース予約方式。

【節求項5】 節求項1 に記載のネットワークリソース予約方式において、クライアントによるネットワークリソース予約状況の確認操作をインターネット標準プロトコルに準拠したグラフィカルユーザインタフェースによって確認できるようにしたことを特徴とするネットワークリソース予約方式。

【請求項6】 請求項1に記載のネットワークリソース予約方式において、リソース予約に失敗した場合は自動的に代替案を計算して提案する手段を設けたことを特徴とするネットワークリソース予約方式。

【請求項7】 請求項1に記載のネットワークリソース予約方式において、ネットワークリソース予約を行う際の通信先情報および通信品質情報の具体的な組合せを予約テンプレートとしてあらかじめ定義しておき、ネットワークリソースの予約を行う際には前記予約テンプレートを指定するだけで定義された通信先、通信品質によるネットワークリソース予約リクエストを発行することができるようにしたことを特徴とするネットワークリソース予約方式。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、複数のネットワークノード装置が相互に接続されて構成されるコンピュータネットワークにおいて、ネットワーク帯域や通信品質レベルなどのネットワークリソースを予約する方式に関する。

[0002]

【0003】また、ATM(Asynchronous Transfer Mode)ネットワークでは、ネットワーク内のノード装置であるATM交換機に対する呼設定の際に要求する通信品質、帯域などを指定することにより希望する通信品質を確保できるようになっている

30 [0004]

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【発明が解決しようとする課題】上配従来技術、実際に 通信を行おうとする時点で必要なネットワークリソース を確保するための通信プロトコルを規定している。この ため、通信を行う時点にならないとネットワークリソー スを予約できない。

【0005】さらに、上配従来技術ではネットワークリソースを予約するためにはネットワークリソースに関する高度な知識が必要であり、ネットワークを利用するエンドユーザが簡単に取扱うことができなかった。

【0006】さらに上記従来技術ではネットワークリソースの予約状況を知ることができないため、条件を変えて別の予約を試みることが困難である。

【0007】 さらに上記従来技術では、ネットワークリソースを予約できるかどうかを判断する際に利用者のネットワーク利用権限や通信の優先度などの情報を総合的に判断して予約を許可または却下するための方法は提供されていなかった。

[0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するた 50 め、本発明では、通信が必要になってから予約を行うの ではなく、あらかじめ必要となることがわかっている将るとの通信についても予約を行うことができるようにするためのネットワークリソース予約する際には、従来のように通常 先り一クリソースを予約する際にはなく、通信開始時刻、終了時刻などの属性をも同時に指定することができる。これにより、ネットワークリソースを確保できるかどうかを判断して予約を許可または却下することができる。

【0009】本発明では上記のようなネットワークリソースを行うためにホスト装置で実行されるユーザインタフェースプログラムとサーバ装置またはノード装置で実行されるネットワークリソース管理プログラムを使用する。これによりネットワークリソースに関する高度な知識を持たないエンドユーザでも簡単にネットワークリソース予約を行うことができる。より簡単な操作を実現するための予約テンプレート定義機能も提供されている。

【0010】さらに本発明では、ネットワークリソース 予約が拒絶された場合に拒絶理由がユーザに提示された り、現在の予約状況をいつでも一覧できるようになって 20 いるなど、万一リソース予約ができなかったとき別の予 約を試みる場合に便利な機能が提供されている。

【0011】さらに本発明では上記のネットワークリソース予約を行う際に、予約を要求する者の権限や予約しようとする通信の優先度などに基づいた判断ができるようになっているため、ネットワークを運用している組織の運用方針に沿った柔軟なネットワークリソース管理が可能になる。

[0012]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施例を図面によ 30って説明する。

【0013】図1は本発明の一実施例であるネットワークシステムの全体構成を示す。

【0014】ホスト装置はネットワークを経由していずれかのノード装置に接続される。本図の例ではホスト装置Aはノード装置Aに、ホスト装置Bはノード装置Bに接続されている。

【0015】ノード装置どうしもまたネットワークを経由して他のいずれかのノード装置に接続される。本図の例ではノード装置Aとノード装置Bとがネットワークで 40接続されている。

【0016】リソース管理サーバはネットワーク内のいずれかのノード装置に接続される。本実施例ではリソース管理サーバはネットワーク全体に対して一つだけ設置されているが、信頼性を向上させるために複数のリソース管理サーバを設けることも可能である。

【0017】本実施例では簡単のためにノード装置が2台、ホスト装置が2台、リソース管理サーバが1台という構成の場合を示したが、さらに多数のノード装置、ホストなのは、1000である。トワ

ーク 構成の場合にも本実施例と同様の機能を実現可能であることは言うまでもない。

【0018】本実施例ではリソース管理サーバを独立した装置として実現した場合について説明しているが、リソース管理サーバの持つ機能そのものは他の装置の中に内蔵することも可能である。たとえば、本実施例のノード装置の中の一つがリソース管理サーバ機能を内蔵するような構成も可能である。

【0019】図2は他の実施例としてノード装置が3台 10 接続されユーザ認証サーバが設置されている場合を示

【0020】ユーザ認証サーバが設置されている場合には本実施例で実現されているようなリソース管理機能に対してユーザ認証機能を付加することが可能である。またホスト装置が3台以上のノード装置を経由して接続される場合にも本発明のリソース管理方式を適用することが可能である。

【0021】本実施例ではリソース管理サーバおよびユーザ認証サーバを独立した装置として実現した場合について説明しているが、リソース管理サーバおよびユーザ認証サーバの持つ機能そのものは他の装置の中に内 凝することも可能である。たとえば、本実施例のノード装置の中の一つがリソース管理サーバ機能を内蔵し、他のノード装置の中にユーザ認証サーバの機能を内蔵するような構成も可能である。

【0022】本実施例ではホスト装置が2台接続され、その間でポイントツーポイントで通信が行われる場合について示しているが、1台のホスト装置から2台以上のホスト装置に対して通信を行う、いわゆるマルチキャスト通信の場合についてもリソース管理サーバを使ったリソース予約機能を同様に適用することが可能である。

【0023】図3はホスト装置のシステム構成を示す。 【0024】CPU300はメインメモリに格納された プログラムを読み取り実行する。メインメモリ310に はホスト装置を制御するための各種ソフトウェアがあった。 されている。ホストサロークロントローテ33 20を通じてネットワークに接続されている。キーポード335からの入力はキーポードコントローラ330に 送られて処理される。マウス345からの入力はアルコントローラ340に送られて処理される。ディスプレイ355に 対する表示が制御される。ホスト装置に内蔵されたで スク装置365はディスクコントローラ360によって 別御される。

【0·0 2 5】 図 4 はホスト装置のソフトウェア構成を示す。

[0026] 通信制御モジュール440はネットワークへのデータ送信、ネットワークからのデータ受信を制御する。アプリケーションプログラム400は通信制御モジュールを使ってデータの送受信を行いながらアプリケ

ーションプログラム固有の処理を行う。リソース予約ユーザインタフェース (UI) プログラム410はリソース予約処理に関するユーザインタフェースを制御する。リソース予約管理モジュール420はユーザの操作により、またはリソース管理サーバからの要求などによりリソース管理テーブル430の内容を管理する。

【0027】図5はリソース予約リクエストウィンドウを示す。

【0028】ホスト装置のユーザがリソースを予約する時にはリソース予約リクエストウィンドウに希望する予 10 約データを入力する。入力されたデータはリソース管理サーバに送られ、リソース管理サーバの判断によって承認または拒絶される。

【0029】リソース予約リクエストウィンドウ500には、リソース予約リクエストを受け付けるリソース管理サーバの名称510、予約を希望する通信先情報520、予約を希望する通信品質530、予約を希望する日時560を入力するフィールドが表示される。また通信先定義ポタン540、通信品質定義ポタン550を押すことにより、頻繁に使われる通信先や通信品質を予約テンプレートとして定義したり参照したりすることができるようになっている。

【0030】ユーザがOKボタン590を押すと入力された予約データがリソース管理サーバに送られる。ユーザがキャンセルボタン595を押すと予約リクエストは送られない。ここで通信先や通信品質を指定するときには、予約テンプレートが使われる。本図の例では、通信先は「営業部ビデオサーバ」、通信品質は「リアルタイム映像/音声(1.5Mbps)」という予約テンプレートがそれぞれ使われている。予約テンプレートを選択るため、ユーザは必要なリソースをどのように指定すればよいかなどの詳しい技術的な知識を持つ必要がない。このためエンドユーザが必要な通信リソースを簡単に予約することができる。

【0031】予約テンプレートはネットワーク管理者が 作成することも可能であるし、技術的な詳細を理解して いるユーザが独自に定義することも可能である。

【0032】図6は通信先テンプレートウィンドウを示す。

【0033】テンプレート名称610を指定し、通信先ホスト名620、通信先ポート番号630をそれぞれ指定することにより新しいテンプレートを定義することができる。テンプレート名称610ですでに定義されている別のテンプレートを選択するとその設定内容を変更することもできる。

【0034】図7は通信品質テンプレートウィンドウを示す。

【0035】テンプレート名称710を指定し、通信先 ホスト名720、通信先ポート番号730をそれぞれ指 定することにより新しいテンプレートを定義することができる。テンプレート名称710ですでに定義されている別のテンプレートを選択するとその設定内容を変更することもできる。

[0036] 図8は指定可能なサービスクラスの例を示す。

【0037】本実施例では図8に示した5つのサービスクラスが定義されている。

【0038】サービスクラスAは通信時刻、通信帯域を) 指定することができ、かつ通常の予約よりも優先的に予 約が受け付けられるサービスクラスである。

[0039] サービスクラスA-は通信時刻、通信帯域 を指定することができ、かつ通常の優先度で予約が受け 付けられるサービスクラスである。

【0040】サービスクラスA、A-はビデオ会議など特定の時刻に特定の通信帯域を使って通信したい場合に指定することを想定している。

【0041】サービスクラスBは通信時、通信量を指定することができ、かつ通常の予約よりも優先的に予約が受け付けられるサービスクラスである。

{0042} サービスクラスBーは通信時刻、通信量を 指定することができ、かつ通常の優先度で予約が受け付 けられるサービスクラスである。

(0043) サービスクラスB. Bーはファイル転送などある程度まとまった量のデータを特定の期限までに通信したい場合に指定することを想定している。

[0044] サービスクラス C は通信時刻など特に指定を行わず、通常の優先度で予約が受け付けられるサービスクラスである。

0 【0045】サービスクラスCはいわゆるベストエフォートと呼ばれる一般のデータ通信の際に指定することを 想定している。

【0046】上記5つのサービスクラスはクラスAがもっともコストが高く(コスト5)、次いでクラスAー(コスト4)という順序でクラスCが最もコストが低くなっている(コスト1)。ユーザは通信の目的およびコストの許容範囲に応じて適当なサービスクラスを選択して通信することが可能になる。

[0047] さらに、上記のサービスクラスの他にも予40 約するネットワークリソースの種類や優先度の設定方法などにより利用目的に合わせた新しいサービスクラスを定義することができることは言うまでもない。

【0048】図9はリソース予約承認通知ウィンドウを示す。

【0049】リソース管理サーバはホスト装置から送られたリソース予約リクエストの内容を見て予約を承認するかどうかを判断する。その結果、要求された予約リクエストを承認する場合にはホスト装置に予約を承認することを通知する。予約が承認されるとホスト装置はリソース予約承認通知ウィンドウ900を表示して予約リク

エストが承認されたことをユーザに通知する.

[0050] リソース予約承認通知ウィンドウ900には、リソース管理サーバが当該予約を受け付けたときに発行する予約受付番号910、当該予約リクエストを受け付けたリソース管理サーバの名称920が表示される。ユーザがOKボタン930を押すとリソース予約承認通知ウィンドウ900が消去される。

【0051】図10はリソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ を示す。

【0052】リソース管理サーバはホスト装置から送ら 10 れたリソース予約リクエストを承認しない場合はホスト 装置に予約を承認しないことを通知する。ホスト装置は リソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウを表示して予約リクエ ストが失敗したことをユーザに通知する。

【0053】リソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ1000には、当該予約が拒絶された理由1010、当該予約リクエストを受け付けたリソース管理サーバの名称1020が表示される。ユーザがOKポタン1030を押すとリソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ1000が消去される。

[0054] この例では予約に失敗した理由は同一時刻に競合する予約があったことを示している。このようにユーザは予約がなぜ失敗したのかをリソース管理サーバからの通知によって知ることができる。

[0055] 本発明のリソース管理方式では、リソース管理サーバがリソース予約を一括して管理しているためある予約が可能かどうかを容易に判断できる。

[0056] さらにリソース予約リクエストを送ったユーザの権限や予約を行おうとする通信の優先度などの情報に基づいて予約の可否を判断することも可能である。 [0057] 本実施例では、ユーザが代替案ポタン1040を押すと、失敗した予約と近い条件で予約可能な代替案を提案するようになっている。

【0058】図11は代替予約提案ウィンドウ1100 を示す。

【0059】リソース予約リクエストが拒絶されると、ホスト装置のリソース管理モジュールはリソース予約リクエストが拒絶された理由コードを参照し、リソース管理サーバに予約状況を問合せることにより、適切な代替予約案を提案する。

【0060】代替予約ウィンドウ1100には、リソース管理モジュールが遊んだリソース予約サーバ名1110、 通信先1120、通信先定發ボタン1140、 通信時刻品質1130、通信品質定發ボタン1150、通信時刻1160、通信帯域1170、通信費1180などが表示される。予約ボタン1190を押すと提案された内容の予約リクエストを発行する。キャンセルボタン1195を押すと予約リクエストは発行しない。

【0061】このように代替予約提案が自動的に計算されて思いまれるため、コーザはもし予約に失敗したとき

にもすぐに別の予約を試みることができる。ここで示される代替案は現在の予約状況に関する情報を考慮したものになっているため、提案に従えば予約リクエストがほぼ確実に承認される。したがって無駄な予約リクエストを何度も発行する手間がかからない。

[0062] 図12はリソース予約一覧ウィンドウを示す。

【0063】ホスト装置のユーザは、必要に応じていつでも現在のリソース予約状況を確認することができる。
10 【0064】リソース予約一覧ウィンドウ1200には予約者、通信先、通信開始日時、通信終了日時、通信品質などの予約情報リスト1210が表示される。ユーザがOKポタン1220を押すとリソース予約一覧ウィンドウ1200が消去される。ユーザが詳細ポタン1230を押すとそのとき予約情報リスト1210で選択でいた予約項目に関する詳細情報がリソース予約詳細ウィンドウに表示される。このようにユーザはいつでもリソース予約状況を確認できるため、ネットワークの使用状況を考慮して予約リクエストを発行することができる。

【0065】図13はリソース予約詳細ウィンドウを示す。

【0066】リソース予約一覧ウィンドウに表示される予約リストの中のある項目を選択し、詳細ポタンを押すとリソース予約詳細ウィンドウが表示される。リソース予約詳細ウィンドウ1300には、当該予約を行ったユーザの名称1310、当該予約の通信先情報1320、当該予約の通信品質情報1330、当該予約の通信と時刻1350、始時刻1340、当該予約の通信終了時刻1350、始ま予約の予約受付番号1360、当該予約を受け付けたリソース管理サーバの名称1360が表示される。閉じるポタン1380を押すとリソース予約詳細ウィンドウが閉じる。予約変更ポタン1385を押すと当該予約の予約変更を行うウィンドウが表示される。予約取消ポタン1390を押すと当該予約が取消される。

【0067】図14はリソース予約リクエストメッセージのデータ形式を示す。

[0068] リソース予約リクエストメッセージ1400は、ヘッダ情報1410リソース予約リクエストメッセージ140セージであることを示すコード1420、要求者のID1430、通信先ホスト装置のネットワークアドレスなどの通信先情報1440、通信に使用する帯域や通信遅延許容範囲などの通信品質情報1450、通信開始時刻や終了時刻などの通信時刻情報1450、要求者のIDや電子署名データなどの要求者認証情報1470からなる

【0069】図15はリソース予約承認メッセージのデ - 夕形式を示す

【0070】リソース予約承認メッセージ1500は、 ヘッダ情報1510、リソース予約結果通知メッセージ であることを示すコード 1 5 2 0、要求者の I D 1 5 3 0、リソース予約承認を示すコード 1 5 4 0、予約承認 番号などの予約承認情報 1 5 5 0、サーバ名称やサーバ の電子署名データなどのサーバ認証データ 1 5 6 0 からなる。

【0071】図16はリソース予約拒絶メッセージのデータ形式を示す。

【0072】リソース予約拒絶メッセージ1600は、ヘッダ情報1610、リソース予約結果通知メッセージであることを示すコード1620、要求者のID1630、リソース予約拒絶を示すコード1640、予約拒絶理由コード1650、サーバ名称やサーバの電子署名データなどのサーバ認証データ1660からなる。

【0073】図17はリソース予約取消メッセージのデータ形式を示す。

【0074】リソース予約取消メッセージ1700は、ヘッダ情報1710、リソース予約無効メッセージであることを示すコード1720、要求者のID1730、予約承認番号などの予約承認情報1740、サーバ名称やサーバの電子署名データなどのサーバ認証データ17 2050からなる。

【0075】図18はリソース予約情報メッセージ18 00のデータ形式を示す。

【0076】リソース予約情報メッセージ1800は、ヘッダ情報1810、リソース予約情報を示すコード1820、このメッセージに含まれる予約情報の数1830、1番目の予約情報1840、2番目の予約情報1850という順序でN番目の予約情報1870まで、サーバ名称やサーバの電子署名データなどのサーバ認証データ1840からなる。各予約情報は要求者IDや通信先30情報,通信品質情報など、予約リクエストメッセージに含まれるとの同様の情報が含まれている。

【0077】図19はリソース予約変更メッセージのデータ形式を示す。

【0078】リソース予約変更メッセージは、ヘッダ情報1910、リソース予約変更を示すコード1920、要求者のID1930、予約承認番号などの予約承認情報1940、通信先ホスト装置のネットワークアドレスなどの通信先情報1950、通信に使用する帯域や通信遅延許容範囲などの通信品質情報1960、通信開始時刻や終了時刻などの通信時刻情報1960、通常開始時刻や終了時刻などの通信時刻情報1970、要求者のIDや電子署名データなどの要求者認証情報1980からなる。

【0079】図20はリソース予約結果通知処理のフローを示す。

【0080】ホスト装置のリソース予約ユーザインタフェースプログラムはリソース予約リクエストウィンドウを表示する(ステップ)。ユーザがキャンセルボタンを押したかどうかをチェックする(ステップ)。もしキャンセルボタンが押されていたら終でする。もしキャンセ 50

ルボタンが押されていなければリソース予約リクエスト メッセージを作成する (ステップ)。 作成したリソース 予約リクエストメッセージをリソース管理サーバに送信 する (ステップ)。

【0081】図21はリソース予約結果通知処理のフローを示す。

【 0 0 8 2 】 ホスト装置のリソース予約ユーザインタフェースプログラムはリソース管理サーバからリソース予 約結果通知メッセージを受信する(ステップ 2 1 0

0)。リソース予約結果通知メッセージの内容をチェックする(ステップ2110)。もしリソース予約が承認されたらリソース予約結果通知メッセージから予約承認データを取り出す(ステップ2130)。リソース予約 旅記ウィンドウを表示し、取り出した予約承認データを表示する(ステップ2150)。もしリソース予約が拒絶されたらリソース予約結果通知メッセージから予約失敗理由を取り出す(ステップ2120)。リソース予約失敗ウィンドウを表示し、予約失敗理由を表示する(ステップ2140)。

20 【0083】図22はリソース予約取消処理のフローを 示す。

【0084】ホスト装置のリソース予約ユーザインタフェースプログラムはリソース予約詳細ウィンドウを表示する(ステップ2200)。リソース予約詳細ウィンドウで予約取消ボタンが押されたかどうかを判定する(ステップ2210)。もし予約取消ボタンが押されたら、当該予約の予約受付番号とリソース予約サーバ名と予約受付番号を取り出す(ステップ2220)。取り出した予約受付番号に基づいてリソース予約取消メッセージをリソース予約取消メッセージをリソース管理サーバに送信する(ステップ2240)。

【0085】図23はリソース予約変更処理のフローを 示す。

【0086】ホスト装置のリソース予約ユーザインタフェースプログラムはリソース予約詳細ウィンドウを表示する(ステップ2300)。リソース予約詳細ウィンドウで予約変更ポタンが押されたかどうかを判定する(ステップ)。もし予約変更ポタンが押されたら、当該予約の予約受付番号とリソース予約サーバ名と予約番号を取り出す(ステップ2320)。取り出した予約受付番号に基づいてリソース予約変更メッセージを作成する(ステップ2330)。作成したリソース予約変更メッセージをリソース管理サーバに送信する(ステップ234

【0087】図24は代替予約提案処理のフローを示す。

【0088】 リソース予約失政メッセージの理由コードを参照する (ステップ 2400) 。リソース管理サーバにリソース予約情報を要求する (ステップ 2410) 。

リソース管理サーバからリソース予約情報メッセージを受取る(ステップ2420)。予約情報と理由コードから予約が可能と思われる代替案を作成する(ステップ2430)。代替案があるかどうかを判定する(ステップ2450)。もし代替案がないでき表示する(ステップ2450)。もし代替案がない場合は代替案がないことをユーザに通知する(ステップ2460)。代替案をもとに予約を行うかどうかを判定する(ステップ2470)。もし予約を行う場合は、リソース予約リクエストメッセージを作成する(ステップ2470)。作成したリソース予約メッセージを指定されたリソース管理サーバへ送付する(ステップ2490)。

[0089]

【発明の効果】本発明のネットワークリソース予約方式 を用いることにより、ネットワークリソースに関する高 度な知識を持たないエンドユーザが簡単な操作によりネ ットワークリソースを予約することができる。

【0090】さらにネットワークリソースを予約する際に、ユーザの認証情報などを利用して予約を承認するか 20 どうかを判断することができるため、ユーザの権限や通信の優先度を考慮した予約が行える。

【0091】さらにリソース予約状況をいつでも確認することができ、リソース予約失敗時には自動的に代替案が提示されるため、あるリソース予約に失敗した場合に別の予約を効率よく行うことができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施例のシステム構成図である。

【図2】本発明の別の実施例のシステム構成図である。

【図3】ホスト装置のシステム構成図である。

【図4】ホスト装置のソフトウェア構成図である。

【図5】リソース予約リクエストウィンドウである。

[図 6] 通信先テンプレートウィンドウである。

【図7】 並信品質テンプレートウィンドウである.

【図8】利用可能なサービスクラスの一覧を示す。

【図9】リソース予約承認通知ウィンドウである。

【図10】リソース予約失敗 知力 ウィンドウである。

【図11】代替予約提案ウィンドウである。

【図12】リソース予約一覧ウィンドウである。

【図13】リソース予約詳細ウィンドウである。

【図14】リソース予約リクエストメッセージのデータ 形式を示す図である。 【図15】 リソース予約承認メッセージのデータ形式を 示す図である。

【図16】リソース予約拒絶メッセージのデータ形式を 示す図である。

【図17】リソース予約取消メッセージのデータ形式を 示す図である。

【図18】 リソース予約情報メッセージのデータ形式を 示す図である。

【図19】リソース予約変更メッセージのデータ形式を示す図である。

【図20】 リソース予約リクエスト発行処理のフローを 示す図である。

【図21】 リソース予約リクエスト結果通知処理のフローを示す図である。

【図 2 2】 リソース予約リクエスト取消処理のフローを 示す図である。

【図23】 リソース予約リクエスト変更処理のフローを 示す図である。

【図24】代替予約提案処理のフローを示す図である。 【符号の説明】

100…リソース管理サーバ、110…ホスト装置、1 20…ノード装置、150…ネットワーク、400…ア プリケーションプログラム、410…リソース予約UI プログラム、420…リソース予約管理モジュール、4 3 0 … リソース予約管理テーブル、 4 4 0 … 通信制御モ ジュール、 5 0 0 … リソース予約リクエストウィンド ウ、600… 通信先テンプレートウィンドウ、700… 通信品質 テンプレートウィンドウ、800~840…サ ービスクラス、900…リソース予約承認通知ウィンド 30 ウ、1000…リソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ、11 00…代替予約提案ウィンドウ、1200…リソース予 約一覧ウィンドウ、1300…リソース予約詳細ウィン ドウ、1400…リソース予約リクエストメッセージ、 1500…リソース予約承認メッセージ、1600…リ . ソース予約拒絶メッセージ、1700…リソース予約取 消メッセージ、1800…リソース予約情報メッセー ジ、1900…リソース予約変更メッセージ、2000 ~ 2 0 3 0 … リソース予約リクエスト発行処理、 2 1 0 0~2150…リソース予約結果通知処理、2200~ 2 2 4 0 … リソース予約取消処理、2 3 0 0 ~ 2 3 4 0 …リソース予約変更処理、2400~2490…代替予 約提案処理。

【図1】

ネットワーク 150

ノリソース管理サーバ 100

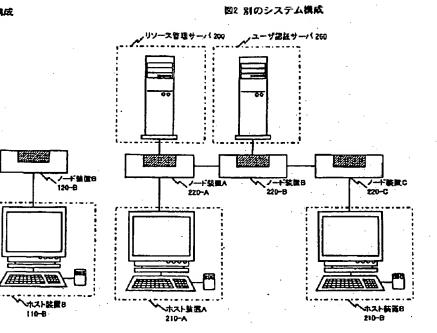
、ノー・ 120-A

110-A

A 異型イスポン

[図2]

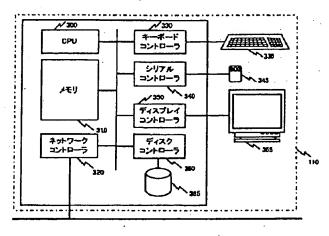
図1 システム構成



【図3】

· 【図4】

図3 ホスト装置システム模成



【図5】

図5 リソース予約リクエストウィンドウ

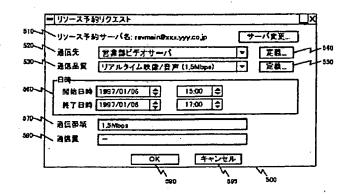
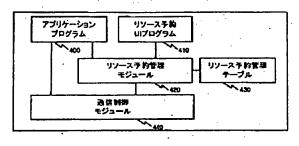
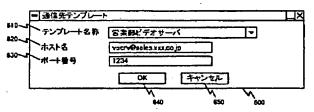


図4 ホスト装置ソフトウェア構成



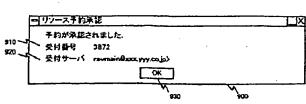
【図6】

図8 通信先テンプレートウィンドウ



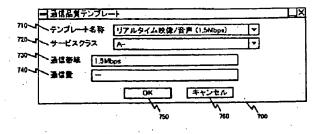
【図9】

図9 リソース予約承認通知ウィンドウ



【図7】

図7 通信品質テンプレートウィンドウ



[図8]

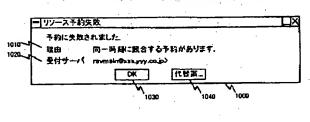
図8 サービスクラス

サービスクラス	コスト	通信時期	海に奈草	通信章	予約 安先度
*	5	FER	拓定	-	優先
A-	4	指定	治定		非優先
В	3	指定		預定	役先
θ-	2	指定	-	指定	非安先
c	1	T	-	_	学报先

【図11】

【図10】

図10 リソース予約失敗通知ウィンドウ



【図12】

図11 代替予約提案ウィンドウ

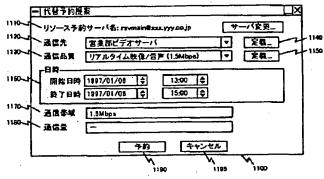
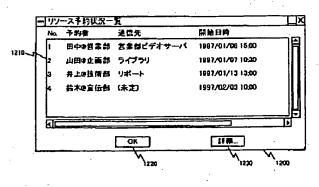


図12 リゾース予約一覧ウィンドウ



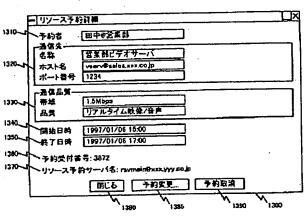
【図14】

・図14 リソース予約リクエストメッセージ



【図13】

図13 リソース予約詳細ウィンドウ



【図15】

【図16】

【図17】

図15 リソース予約承認メッセージ

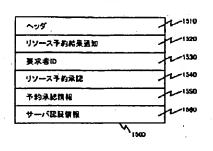


図16 リソース予約拒絶メッセージ

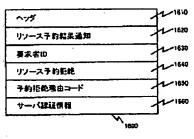
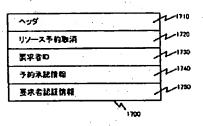
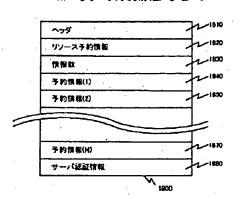


図17 リソース予約取消メッセージ



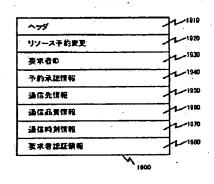
【図18】

図18 リソース予約情報メッセージ



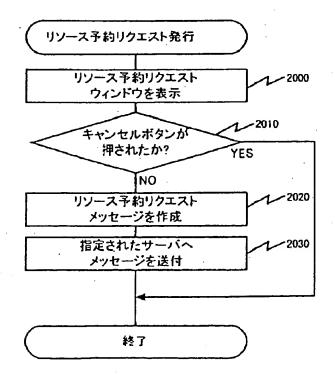
【図19】

図19 リソース予約変更メッセージ



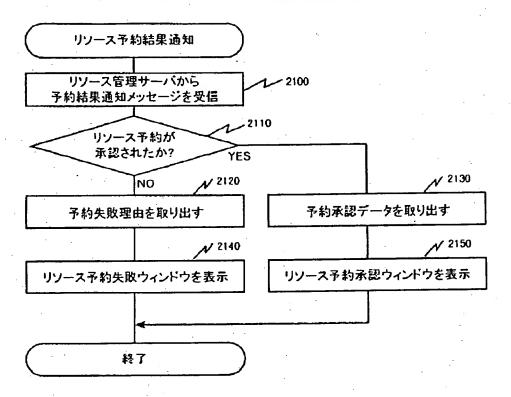
【図20】

図20 リソース予約リクエスト発行処理



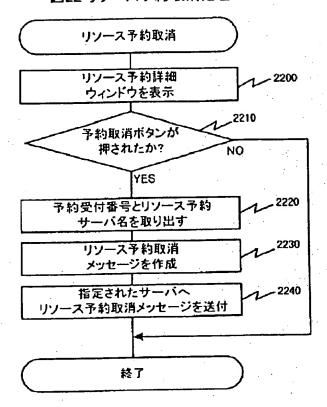
【図21】

図21 リソース予約結果通知処理



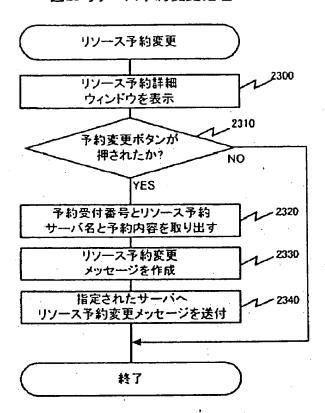
[図22]

図22 リソース予約取消処理



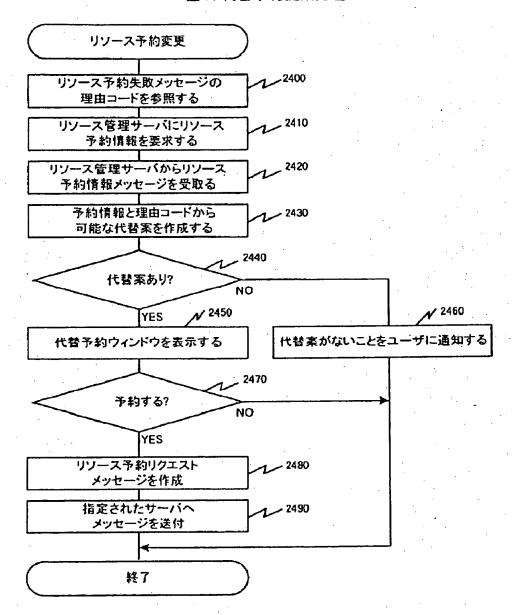
【図23】

図23 リソース予約変更処理



[図24]

図24 代替予約提案処理



フロントページの続き

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